

Rain falls. Wind howls. Lights flash. Cars pass. Darkness encloses. A shadow approaches. Her heart stops. He's drenched. She's drenched. Their eyes meet. Her lips part. Words spill. Her arms tremble. Her fingers clutch the jacket's hem. He watches her. His eyes pierce her skin. Her breath quickens as she finishes. He blinks and the trance breaks. His mind reels. The rain chills his skin. Silence builds on his hesitance. She bites her lip. He chokes on a confession. She understands and shuffles away. His soul deflates.

Time dwindles. She swallows her heart. He buries his. Their friendship stretches and wears and tears. Their needs swell and burst but they do not answer. Excuses double, triple, quadruple. Fears fester and consume. Anguish floods their lungs. Her soul starts to fade. So does his.

The day dies. The light recedes and casts shadows on her bellybutton. The folds of the shirt bundle at her waist. She sleeps. She is unaware of how it kills him. Something snaps. The fears evaporate as he leans to kiss her. Their lips touch. Part. Melt. She doesn't stop him.

Rain falls. Wind howls. Lightning flashes. Darkness encloses. The sheets whisper. She wakes in his arms and smiles. He smiles and kisses her shoulder. Their life begins.

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